

Message Text

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R 221913Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STATE 127193

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IS

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 106659

1. SMITHSONIAN HAS RECEIVED FROM URI SHARVIT "INTERVIEW REPORT FORMS" ON 26 PERFORMERS WITH ENOUGH BIO DATA TO COMPLETE DSP-66 FORMS. ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM SHMUEL ZEMACH LIST OF 27 PERFORMERS, WITH BIRTHDATES. WOULD APPRECIATE USIS CLARIFYING DISCREPANCIES WITH ZEMACH AND CABLING ASAP CORRECT NAMES, BIRTHDATES, BIRTHPLACES, PROFESSIONS OF NON-PERFORMERS ACCOMPANYING GROUP.

2. UNDERSTAND DR. DAN RONEN AND URI SHARVIT WILL LEAD GROUP AND ASSIST WITH FOLKLORIC PRESENTATION, ITAMAR GOREVITCH WILL BE TOUR ADMINISTRATOR. TWO SECURITY OFFICERS TO BE NAMED.

3. ZEMACH LIST INCLUDES MISS ZIONA NAGAR, YEMENITE DANCER AND MR. I.M. TRAITEL, SPECIALTY UNKNOWN. THESE DO UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT APPEAR ON SHARVIT LIST NOR ARE THEY KNOWN TO

KIRSHENBLAYY-GOMBLETT.

4. SHARVIT LIST INCLUDES SHMUEL YITZHAK BRONSTEIN, ASHKENAZIC SINGER/DRUMMER WHO DOES NOT APPEAR ON ZEMACH LIST NOR IS HE KNOWN TO KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT.

5. NEITHER LIST INCLUDES LEVI ISRAELI, AROUND WHOM KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT WAS PLANNING TO CENTER WESTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH MATERIALS. NOONE ELSE REPRESENTS WESTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH TRADITIONS.

6. BOTH LISTS INCLUDE MORD'CHAI ABRAHAMOV AS SINGER/DANCER IN LADINO TRADITION WHEREAS KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT GREATLY PREFERS MARIA ASHKENAZIM AS MORE AUTHENTIC. PLEASE STRESS SERIOUSNESS OF KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT'S CONCERNS THOUGH SMITHSONIAN RECOGNIZES THERE MAY BE VALID REASONS FOR CHANGES.

7. TOTAL OF ISRAELIS COMING NOT CLEAR. SMITHSONIAN HAS AGREED TO FUND STATESIDE COSTS FOR 27 INDIVIDUALS. EMBASSY AND KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT CONTACTS IN TEL AVIV AGREE GOI WILL REIMBURSE SMITHSONIAN FOR PARTICIPANTS OVER 27. TOTAL MAY BE 31 OR 32. HAVE ADVISED ISRAELI EMBASSY THAT COSTS IN WASHINGTON WILL BE 10 DOLLARS PER DAY POCKET MONEY PLUS 18 DOLLARS PER DAY BOARD AND ROOM PLUS WHATEVER ADD-ON MAY BE REQUIRED FOR KOSHER MEALS. TOURING REIMBURSABLE COSTS WOULD BE AIRFARES PLUS 10 DOLLARS PER DAY PER PARTICIPANT. ROBINSON

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